



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR THE
COUNTY OF LEE, STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

FEBRUARY 19, 2007

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the County of Lee, State of North Carolina, convened at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Room, Lee County Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Drive, Sanford, North Carolina, on said date. Commissioners present were Robert H. Brown, James C. Kelly, Jerry M. Lemmond, Nathan E. Paschal, Robert T. Reives, Linda A. Shook, and Amy L. Stevens.

Chairman Brown presided and the following business was transacted:

County Attorney K. R. Hoyle delivered the invocation.

Chairman Brown led the pledge of allegiance.

The following new employees were introduced to the Board:

Lori Tillett	Social Services
Kelli Alford	Finance
Sherry Poindexter	Finance
Steven White	Health Department

The Board considered additions/changes to the agenda. Chairman Brown asked the Board to consider on the Consent Agenda, a *Resolution Urging the Use of Inhibitors in Meth Production*. Chairman Brown also presented a revised Resolution pertaining to the School Board's request for a bond referendum for renovations to Lee County High School. Commissioner Shook asked that agenda items VI. D and E under New Business are switched for discussion. Commissioner Reives moved approval of the above addition and changes to the New Business items. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens
Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Lemmond asked that he be excused from voting on Tax Releases and Refunds due to personal interest in one release. Chairman Brown moved to amend the agenda as presented above. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens
Nay: None

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Stevens moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended, which consisted of the following items:

- February 5, 2007 regular meeting minutes
- February 5, 2007 work session minutes
- Tax Releases and Refunds for January 2007 (copy attached)
- Budget amendment # 02/19/07/313 (copy attached)
- Library request to apply for Internet Infrastructure Improvement grant
- Resolution Urging the Use of Inhibitors in Meth Production (copy attached)

Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Paschal, Reives, Shook, and Stevens
Nay: None
Excused: Lemmond (from voting on Tax Releases and Refunds)

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

Mr. Wade Childress of 143 Willett Drive, Sanford, spoke during the "Public Comments" section of the meeting. Mr. Childress expressed concern over the large amount of money the schools have asked for over the past several months. Mr. Childress stated he was on a fixed income and cannot afford additional tax increases to fund the schools at this time. He further asked the Commissioners to place a one-year hold on school spending.

At this time the Board heard a rezoning petition by Mr. John Daniel (representing White Dog Properties, Inc.); to rezone 1.28 acres of land located Northeast of Pine Forest Road (SR 1173) from Residential Agricultural (RA) district to Highway Commercial (HC) district. Planner Althea Thompson outlined the rezoning petition and answered questions from the Board.

Chairman Brown opened the public hearing.

Mr. John Daniel of 2250 Cape Jasmine Drive, Sanford, North Carolina, spoke in favor of the rezoning petition.

The following individuals, representing Rocky Fork Christian Church, spoke in opposition:

Joe West, Chairman of the Board of Rocky Fork Church
Fred West, Chairman of the Trustees of Rocky Fork Church
Walter Tyler, Trustee of the Rocky Fork Church
Walt Perry, Member of Rocky Fork Church
Joe Johnson, Member of Rocky Fork Church
Joe Blakely, Member of Rocky Fork Church

All of the above individuals expressed concern over what might be placed on the lots; the first concern was the church and what rezoning might do to it. Traffic concerns at the nearby intersection were also discussed and some felt commercial property did not need to be included in the area. A petition signed by approximately 200 individuals opposing the rezoning request was submitted to the Clerk.

Chairman Brown closed the public hearing.

It was noted that members of the Planning Board will hear the same petition at the Lee County Courthouse at 7:00 p.m. on this date, and a recommendation will be presented to the Commissioners for consideration at their March 19, 2007, meeting. No action was taken.

Commissioner Stevens left the meeting during this discussion.

The Board considered a request from the Sheriff's Office to contract with Southern Health Partners for health care services for inmates. Captain Kent Everett, representing Sheriff Tracy Carter, discussed with the Board Sheriff Carter's proposal to enter into an agreement/contract with Southern Health Partners in order to provide better medical attention and possibly avoid legal liabilities for the County. For the past three and one-half years the Lee County Health Department has furnished a Physician Extender and Nurse at the Jail three (3) afternoons a week and staff are available for emergency calls from 8:00-5:00 weekdays if needed. Inmates are taken to RapidCare for services required after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends. Mr. Everett stated that several agencies currently using Southern Health Partners were contacted and all gave excellent references. It was further stated the base program cost would be approximately \$169,800 per year. Health Director Mike Hanes stated he was in favor of the Sheriff's Department trying this service for one year but urged that detailed records of costs/savings/services/etc. be kept. Mr. Hanes stated this new arrangement would free his staff to work on the Primary Care Clinic project. After further discussion, Commissioner Reives moved to accept the recommendation of the Sheriff's Department and Health Director to negotiate an agreement with Southern Health Partners for at least one year and for staff to keep detailed records of services administered during this time. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Shook
Nay: None
Absent: Stevens

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

The Board considered a request from the Sheriff's Office to purchase new vehicles. Chief Deputy Randall Butler told Commissioners his office had received the

following quotes to purchase ten (10) new vehicles using funds appropriated in the FY 2006-07 budget. All quotes received were quoted under State Contract pricing:

- 8 – 2007 Dodge Chargers at \$20,596 each (Iderton Dodge)
- 1 – 2007 Impala at \$17,990 (Bobby Murray Chevrolet)
- 1 – 2007 Ford 150 at \$23,688 (Vic Bailey Ford)

It was noted the above-referenced vehicles total \$206,466.00, and remaining budgeted funds of \$35,584.00 will be used to equip the new vehicles with lights and other needed emergency equipment. Mr. Butler stated that local vendors were contacted but comparable quotes were not received. After some discussion, Commissioner Paschal moved to approve the purchase of the above-referenced ten new vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Shook
Nay: None
Absent: Stevens

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

The Board considered a request from BRAC representatives for funding in the amount of \$2,500.00. Strategic Initiatives Director Lesa Price told the Board that all Tier 1 counties were asked to approve \$2,500.00 to enter into an agreement with Greenfield Services to provide economic consulting assistance to respond to companies that have indicated they are interested in relocating to the region. Greenfield Services will provide economic consulting assistance of the following tasks:

- Follow-up with the initial survey and reduce the list of 500 defense contractors to a smaller list of those companies that are interested in moving to this region;
- Contact by calling the companies on the list to determine their inventions and requirements;
- Follow-up on requirements and coordinate with local Economic Development offices to develop proposals and assist in selecting sites; and
- Compile a list of available office space, flex, warehouse and manufacturing space by county in the region.

Commissioner Reives moved approval of the BRAC request for \$2,500.00 to be used for the above-referenced project. Mr. Reives further asked that the final report be shared with Commissioners. Upon a vote of the motion, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Shook
Nay: None
Absent: Stevens

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

The Board considered a Resolution for General Obligation Bonds from the Lee County Board of Education. Finance Director Lisa Minter told the Board she had

received a revised resolution from Bond Counsel in reference to the Lee County Board of Education's request to call for a special election in June for a bond referendum not to exceed \$25 million for renovations to Lee County High School. Commissioners made the following comments in reference to this matter:

Commissioner Reives

- Feels the timing was premature and the County has many things before them that need to be addressed.
- Tax rate has not been decided much less discussion on spending \$25 million for the schools.
- Other requests will need to be looked at and considered.
- The local schools are not the only educational institution that needs funding at this time.
- The issue needs to be addressed at some time but in his opinion, not this year.
- Feels the Commissioners need to get a handle on many different things before moving forward on spending more money.

Commissioner Shook

- Acknowledged there are serious challenges at our schools.
- Discussed achievement levels, immigration issues, teacher expectations.
- Believes the Board of Education is working for the best interest of the schools and teachers.
- Responsibility of the Commissioners to study all issues needed at this time.
- Get all the facts in order to make sound decisions.
- Make sure all requests are within budget and within the County's CIP Plan.
- Addressed the fact the high schools are only open ten months out of the year, eight hours per day. Has anyone studied the possibility of block scheduling or trimester classes to use the current facilities?
- Felt there needed to be some type of strategy in place in order to move forward.
- Admitted she made a mistake at the February 5, 2007 meeting when she voted for the \$80,000 request from the School Board for a study of Lee County High School.
- Would like to see an Education Task Force established to address some of the schools concerns. Commissioner Shook stated she would take the leadership role on this project and submit a resolution at the March meeting for consideration.

Commissioner Lemmond

- Stated there needs to be more direction on the Lee County High School project; the project is coming too close to the new middle school project.
- The citizens have concerns in reference to this project.

Commissioner Kelly

- Stated Lee County is currently in a situation on what and where our finances are at this time.
- Would like to see Lee Senior be “top of the line” but doesn’t want to see the issue rushed.

Chairman Brown

- Stated the figure of \$25 million could not be addressed without a tax increase of at least 3 1/2 cents.
- The project in question started out as a \$10 million project and has accelerated to \$25 millions.

After further discussion, Commissioner Lemmond moved to deny the request from the Board of Education for a bond referendum for renovations up to \$25 million dollars for Lee County High School and their request to apply State lottery proceeds for renovations at Lee County High School. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Shook
Nay: None
Absent: Stevens

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

Representative Jimmy Love, Sr., had notified the County Manager’s Office of the deadline for submitting local bills to Legislative Bill Drafting. The deadline for Senate Bills is February 27, 2007, and March 20, 2007 for Bills going to the House of Representatives. A “draft” bill presented by former Representative John Sauls for the one-half cent sales tax legislation requested by the Board in 2005 to be used for public school capital outlay purposes will be resubmitted. A separate issue for a one-cent increase is also being considered. The Board discussed questions presented by the Staff Attorney from the N.C. General Assembly as it relates to the drafted Bill. Commissioner Reives moved for County Attorney K. R. Hoyle to submit a letter to Representative Love addressing questions proposed in reference to the local option sales tax so the Bill can be finalized for submission. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Shook
Nay: None
Absent: Stevens

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously. (Note: A copy of Attorney Hoyle’s letter to Representative Love is attached to these minutes and by this reference made a part hereof).

The Board considered a Resolution to ratify action taken during the Commissioners Annual Planning Retreat held on February 12-13, 2007. Assistant County Manager Kenny Cole told the Board staff felt the recent Retreat was a success and therefore a Resolution was submitted to ratify the Resolution adopted by the Commissioners after their 2005 Retreat which incorporated “family” as part of the Core Values. Commissioner Shook moved to approve the above-referenced Resolution.

Commissioner Reives stated he was offended by various comments listed on the *Resolution to Address Action from the Annual Planning Retreat*. After much discussion, Commissioner Paschal moved to table the Resolution. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Shook
Nay: None
Absent: Stevens

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

Strategic Initiatives Director Lesa Price gave the Board an update on the Sanford-Lee County Youth Leadership Council. Ms. Price stated that she, along with a member of the Community Development Department from the City of Sanford have joined forces to form a youth council of high school juniors and seniors to share ideas and introduce youth about city-county government. A grant has been obtained and it is hoped Lee County's program will be used as a model across the State of North Carolina. No action was taken.

Strategic Initiatives Director Lesa Price gave the Board an update on recent and upcoming BRAC meetings.

Finance Director Lisa Minter presented the Monthly Financial Report for month ending January 2007 and the latest Sales Tax figures for the month of February 2007.

Assistant County Manager Kenny Cole asked the Board to schedule a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) work session for Monday, February 26, 2007. After some discussion it was agreed to hold a work session beginning at 4:00 p.m., February 26, 2007, in the Gordon Wicker Conference Room at the Lee County Government Center.

At a previous meeting, Commissioner Reives asked the Board of Education for clarification in reference to students in certain grades not being allowed to take books home due to the fact there were not enough books available to go around. Commissioner Reives was concerned about this matter because not all students have access to a computer at home. Commissioner Reives therefore moved that a letter be forwarded to the Board of Education asking that parents be advised of the schools practice regarding this book issue and allow parents to provide input as to their feelings. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Shook
Nay: None
Absent: Stevens

The Chairman ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Shook moved to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the results were as follows:

Aye: Brown, Kelly, Lemmond, Paschal, Reives, and Shook
Nay: None
Absent: Stevens

Chairman Brown ruled the motion had been adopted unanimously and the meeting adjourned in keeping with the motion.

Robert H. Brown, Chairman
Lee County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Gaynell M. Lee, Clerk